

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03424 110930Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1965

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES FOR FULBRIGHT - HAYS GRANTEES

FOR CU/BFS

REF: STATE A-7897

1. FOLLOWING ARE REPLIES TO QUESTIONS REPAIR AFTER
REVIEW WITH SOME AMERICAN GRANTEES OF THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION
UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS IN SRI LANKA:

2. (1) AND (2): MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES FOR AMERICAN GRANTEES
IN SRI LANKA HAVE BEEN BASED SINCE 1964 ON STRUCTURE
OF FSO ALLOWANCES AND SINCE 1969 HAVE BEEN REVISED IN STEP
WITH COST OF LIVING INCREASES. USEF/SL PROGRAM PROPOSALS
HAVE GENERALLY INCLUDED AN APPROXIMATE 5 TO 10 PERCENT INCREASE
ALMOST ANNUALLY, RESULTING IN ABOUT AT 25 PERCENT OVER-ALL
INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES OVER PAST FIVE YEARS.
LAST INCREASE WAS MADE IN 1973. 1975 PROGRAM PROPOSAL,
EFFECTIVE FOR 75/76, CALLS FOR FURTHER 9.5 PERCENT HILE.

3. UNTIL THIS YEAR AMERICAN GRANTEES HAVE BEEN REASONABLY
SATISFIED WITH ALLOWANCE, WHICH BECAUSE HIGHER THAN LOCAL
SALARY BSE PERMITTED THEM PARTLY TO ABSORB RISING EXPENSES.
THIS ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN LAST SIX MONTHS,
WITH GRANTEES ARGUING THAT ALLOWANCES ARE INADEQUATE TO
MEET NEEDS. AMERICANS INCUR EXPENSES NOT NORMALLY BORNE BY
CEYLONESE PARTICULARLY FOR TRAVEL, TRANSPORTATION, AND
HOUSING, AREAS IN WHICH LOCAL COSTS HAVE SOARED.

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 03424 110930Z

4. (4), (5), (6): 1975/76 PROGRAM PROPOSAL PROJECTS AN APPROXIMATE INCREASE OF 9.5 PERCENT IN ALLOWANCES FOR AMERICAN GRANTEEES, AND USEF/SL DOES NOT PROPOSE GOING BEYOND THIS LEVEL, THOUGH IT MAY NOT FULLY MEET RISING COSTS. OUR CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE IN OUIS INSTANCE, AND TOWARD PROPOSED DOLLAR INCREASE FOR FOREIGN GRANTEEES IN UNITED STATES, SPRINGS FROM A CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH INCREASES FOR OVER-ALL PROGRAM LEVEL. NEED OF COL ADJUSTMENTS IS TANGIBLE BUT AT SAME TIME NUMBER OF GRANTS FOR SRI LANKA IS ALREADY AT IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE ANY INCREASE IN STIPENDS AT COST OF CUTTING NUMBER OF GRANTS. PARTICIPANTS WOULD PREFER HAVE HARD TIME MAKING ENDS MEET THAN FOREGO FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. GIVEN OVER-ALL CONTRACTION IS SUCH OPPORTUNITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR CEYLONENSE TO STUDY IN UNITED STATES OR WEST AS WHOLE, WE CONCUR IN THEIR VIEW. IF STIPEND INCREASES TO COMPENSATE FOR COST OF LIVING INCREASES CAN BE MADE WITHOUT REDUCING NUMBER OF GRANTS, WE WOULD WELCOME THEM.

5. (7): ANSWER PROVIDED IN POINTS (1) AND (2).
BYRNE

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